

**CONFIDENTIAL**

21 December 1955

Mr. William Benton  
 Encyclopedia Britannica  
 342 Madison Avenue  
 New York 17, New York

Dear Mr. Benton:

Enclosed herewith are appropriate sections of the NIS which deal with the subjects in which you indicated interest during your visit with this Agency. You will note that these are all classified and therefore are being made available to you for your information and not for publication. As you know, the NIS is contributed to by many agencies of the government and the classification of the materials therein is set by the producing offices. If you find certain portions of the enclosed will be useful to you, I will be most happy to take the appropriate steps to determine whether these portions can be downgraded to unclassified.

I am also enclosing for your use bibliographical materials prepared by the CIA library, a publication on external research prepared by the Department of State, and an annotated listing of foreign language USSR newspapers and publications. The annotated listing in its published form is classified, but the individual listings therein are unclassified.

When the NIS publications have served your purpose, it is requested that they be returned either directly to me or to

Sincerely,

ROBERT AMORY, JR.  
 Deputy Director/Intelligence

DOCUMENT NO. 31  
 NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐  
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COPY

21 October 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Messrs. [REDACTED], ORR

STAT

SUBJECT: Request for Background Material by Mr. William Benton

1. On 20 October 1955, [REDACTED]

STAT  
STAT

STAT

[REDACTED] Mr. Benton asked whether CIA could supply him with background material for an article he will write later this fall for the Encyclopedia Britannica's Yearbook.

STAT

2. The subject of this article is the effectiveness of propaganda and indoctrination in the Soviet Union and the Satellites. Mr. Benton was particularly interested in obtaining any already-worked-up data of an unclassified nature that the Agency has on the following activities in each of the countries in question: Press, Movies, Sports, Education, Religion, and the Arts. To illustrate what he wants, he cited the following data pertaining to the Press: number of newspapers, circulation, and content of a typical issue of Pravda. He also cited, as illustrative, the material in a recent speech of the DCI on the extent of the training of engineers and other specialists in the Soviet Union. Generally, he seems to want aggregative data on number of institutions of leading types in each of the fields mentioned (newspapers, periodicals, movie theaters, churches, schools, etc.), aggregative data on numbers of people reached by the various media or associated with the various activities (circulation or readership of various papers and periodicals, movie attendance, membership in churches, etc.), and particulars on the functioning of a typical unit (what an average newspaper or periodical looks like, what a typical church service or session of school is like, how a sports club is run, etc.).

3. Mr. Benton asked that this material be in the hands of Mr. Robert Tucker of the RAND Corporation by the end of Saturday, 22 October 1955. Or, if this proved impossible, that it be sent when ready to Mr. Robert Blake of State.

4. Mr. Benton said he would make the request officially to the DCI. Hence Messrs. [REDACTED] are taking no further action.

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STAT

15 December 1955

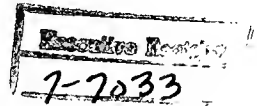
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. DULLES:

Attached is a letter from Mr. William Benton referring to some material he has been expecting to receive.

The material referred to by Mr. Benton is apparently the same data as that mentioned in the attached memorandum prepared by [redacted] of ORR. STAT  
It also appears to be the same material mentioned in [redacted] attached STAT  
memorandum of a telephone call from Mr. Benton's secretary.

Do you wish to have me ask someone to assemble immediately whatever data we can and send it on to Mr. Benton, and at the same time prepare an appropriate reply for your signature?

*FMC*  
FMC



ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA  
342 MADISON AVENUE  
SUITE 702  
NEW YORK 17, N.Y.

WILLIAM BENTON  
PUBLISHER & CHAIRMAN

December 8, 1955

Dear Allen:

STAT

Only a day or two ago I gave instructions that all my memoranda on my recent visit to Russia, Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia - be transmitted intact to the C.I.A., with copies not only to Washington but [redacted]. I imagine these must total well in excess of 50,000 words, and there isn't much repetition. Every day when I finished my interviews with the top government officials, and there were very few of them who had previously been interviewed by Westerners, I sat down and dictated in detail, from careful notes, the purport of the interview. I didn't put in much interpretive material, because I expected to do this later, but I did put in some.

STAT

The memorandum attached would seem to indicate something went wrong with your instructions to your subordinates after our most cordial meeting of about six weeks ago. I know that you ordered a lot of special material to be sent to me. Thus I know that the fault is not yours personally. I send this to you because I assume that you are always willing to re-examine the mechanics of your organization. If Bill Benton and Allen Dulles can't achieve some measure of rapport, what chance is there for future relationships with the U. S. S. R.?!?

Very sincerely yours,

  
William Benton

mec

Mr. Allen Dulles, Director of Central Intelligence  
Central Intelligence Agency  
2430 E Street  
Washington, D. C.

12/5/55

TO: Mr. Benton

FROM: Mr. Howe

In answer to your question of yesterday, Miss Pioda tells me that we received nothing from the CIA. She telephoned Allen Dulles' secretary to ask if Mr. Dulles was willing to send things for perusal by me. His secretary was non-committal. And nothing arrived.